



WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE

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The Washington State Grange, and its 40,000 members across the state, are very concerned about the proposed cap on the federal Universal Service Fund (USF). Many of our members live in the rural areas of Washington where wireless coverage is already lacking. By cutting funds that could be invested in these rural areas you are leaving the citizens in those areas even further behind.

Wireless phones are leaving the realm of luxury and becoming a necessary tool in today's society. When there are large gaps in coverage, it becomes a public safety issue. Without coverage, first responders, law enforcement and rural citizens cannot quickly and reliably deal with critical safety issues like domestic violence, natural disasters or automotive emergencies.

It also leaves our rural areas at a severe economic disadvantage. Without wireless service it is very difficult to attract new business and tourism.

We urge you to not cut funds from the federal Universal Service Fund. The dollars invested through this fund are crucial to the safety and ongoing economic stability of our rural areas. Please do not leave the rural citizens of this country behind.

Sincerely,

Scott Dahlman

Legislative Liaison
Washington State Grange

In Essentials, Unity • In Non-Essentials, Liberty • In All Things, Charity